

TOWN OF EAST HARTFORD

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Testimony by: Marcia A. Leclerc, Mayor, Town of East Hartford

Honorable Chairs Senator Cassano & Representative Rojas; Vice-Chairs, and distinguished members of the Planning & Development Committee.

My name is Marcia Leclerc and I serve as Mayor of the Town of East Hartford. Before I begin I would like to welcome you to the Town of East Hartford and thank you for your bringing government into the communities that you represent.

Tonight I am here to address the Planning & Development Committee specifically on **SB1049 AN ACT AUTHORIZING MUNICIPALITIES TO REGULATE BLIGHTED COMMERCIAL PROPERTY.**

East Hartford is not unique from other older communities with challenges that come along with being an urban community. Our location as a ring community to the capital city, coupled with a lack of developable land, aged housing and commercial stocks, and a depressed economy have certainly provided obstacles for which we seek solutions and the tools that can support our focused efforts on sustainable quality of life improvements for our town.

One of those tools is SB 1049 which proposes to amend sections 7-148, o, ff, and jj of the Connecticut General Statutes. The proposed amendments will enable towns such as East Hartford to have the same enforcement tools for Commercial Property Blight that it currently has for Housing Blight. Most importantly, the proposed changes will extend the \$250 State Fine currently available to help combat Housing Blight to also address Commercial Properties.

I appreciate the fact that our legislatures understand that blighted commercial properties often present more of an enforcement problem for communities than housing blight.

Thank you for your time this evening and for taking my comments under consideration.

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